

Taking off the pounds, keeping them off, 5B



Kicking it off, 1B

Governor pays a visit to Farmington Hills, 2A

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Farmington FOCUS

If you have a news item, feature story idea or an action picture with a Farmington area connection, send a note to our downtown office at 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

SENIOR adults will honor their own with a volunteer recognition ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday, April 21, in the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center.

The public thank you for 1,050 who have given their time and talents for the center's improvement is planned in observance of National Volunteer Week, April 20-26.

DANCERS who study with Virginia Dickerman will furnish the floor show when mothers and daughters from St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills get together for their annual holiday banquet Saturday, April 19.

This is the first spring in 26 years she has never been involved in staging a formal recital. Instead, she will stage a round of dancing entertainment for area nursing homes and seniors throughout the spring, with the latest of her recitals in Dickerman Dance Studio, Farmington.

HELPING hand. The Farmington Hills Fire Department hopes to raise \$1,000 for the National Institute for Burn Medicine through an April candle drive.

Firefighters will be at area shopping centers and restaurants during the month. The National Institute for Burn Medicine is a health care support group dedicated to preventing burn injuries, saving the lives of burn victims and improving the chances for complete recovery and rehabilitation.

GRANT winner. Farmington Hills resident Dr. Merlin Ekstrom, on behalf of Wayne State University, has won a \$248,215 grant from the National Institute of Health. The money will help fund a \$500,000 animal facility improvement project at WSU's School of Medicine. Ekstrom is director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources and an associate professor in the Department of Pathology in the School of Medicine.

EQUIPMENT upgrading. Farmington City Council has authorized the purchase of a mobile radio for use by the Department of Public Safety and two portable hand radios for use by the Department of Public Services. The replacement radios, costing \$4,330, will be purchased from Motorola Communications and Electronics.

FOOTNOTES: One year ago this week — Farmington school district voters will have 14 candidates to choose from when they go to the polls. Monday, June 10 (1985) to fill two seats on the Farmington school board. "This is the most by far we have ever had," said Scott Bacon, district administrative assistant. "But this is the first time we have had two positions open without incumbents running."

Longer highway appears unlikely

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Farmington Hills' proposed extension of Northwestern Highway appears to be a dying issue in light of West Bloomfield Township officials' opposition.

"Northwestern doesn't extend through West Bloomfield anymore. It's gone. There are buildings in the right-of-ways now. I, for one, won't spend \$1 to extend Northwestern to Maple Road," township Trustee Ray Holland said.

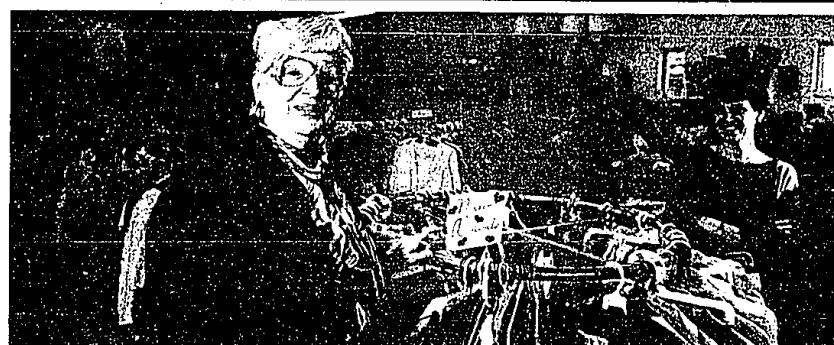
Trustee Jeffrey Leib substantiated Holland's reaction. "If Farmington Hills thinks we're going to alleviate Orchard Lake congestion (by diverting Northwestern traffic onto other roads), you're wrong. It's never going to happen. I'll never vote for that as long as I am a trustee."

Despite the opposition, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield officials have agreed to form a coalition to study and develop solutions to traffic problems of common concern.

Officials from both communities, as well as from the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Oakland County Road Commission, met Wednesday night to discuss traffic problems, as well as revising long-standing plans to extend the state trunkline beyond the 14 Mile Road-Orchard Lake Road intersection to Maple Road.

"THE ISSUE (highway extension) has to be put aside finally if that's

Please turn to Page 3



Community Living Centers founder Mary Wagner (left), with Marialno Micunek, a manager at the Re-Runs Rosale Shop, 33316 Grand River, staffed by parents of group home residents.

Trailblazer

She helped pave way for group homes

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

After Mary Wagner opened her first group home for developmentally disabled adults, she kept her fingers crossed and waited for her bubble to burst.

"That was 17 years and 12 group homes ago.

"The bubble hasn't burst. The bubble is growing," said the executive director of Community Living Centers in Farmington.

"When we opened that first house, I thought that would be it. But we can't grow fast enough. I'm definitely feel successful — just going into the houses and seeing how happy people are. They are

people

living a happy and fulfilling life," Wagner said.

It could possibly be the least well-known fact in the public's knowledge of group homes, but they were Wagner's idea.

In fact, the state's first group home was not born by statute or as the result of controversial discussions in longstanding government committees.

WAGNER'S GROUP home con-

cept was born of a need she saw among students while teaching special education at North Farmington High School in the 1960s.

Although she successfully helped her graduating students find jobs in the community, something was still missing from their lives.

What was missing was what everybody else has to make life fulfilling and enjoyable — companionship with peers, a social life, and an opportunity to live as independently as possible, Wagner said.

"Every time I get a call from a parent, they say everything is fine,

"We can't grow fast enough. I definitely feel successful — just going into the houses (group homes) and seeing how happy people are. They are living a happy and fulfilling life."

— Mary Wagner,
Community Living Centers

Please turn to Page 9

Shooting spree angers homeowner

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Bernie Harrison is hopping mad about last week's sniper fire that left nearly \$1,000 in damage to his Farmington Hills house.

"It doesn't make you feel too safe to live in your own house. You wonder if there'll be a next time," said the computer service manager.

Both Harrison and his wife, Muol, were at work at the time of the sniper fire. They moved to their ranch house on 13 Mile, east of Drake, from Novi last September.

Eight passing cars, a parked pickup truck, two houses and a Michigan Bell Telephone Co. building sustained bullet holes or impressions about 4 p.m. April 7. The shots allegedly came from a second-floor

window of a house across from where the Harrisons live.

Three Farmington Hills teenagers face felony charges in connection with the shooting spree. At least 40 shots were fired. Several bullets struck passing cars, narrowly missing people inside. Miraculously, no one was hit, police said.

HARRISON FEELS darn lucky

neither he nor his wife were home during the gunfire. Four bullets were fired into their house through the dining-room picture window.

One bullet hit a dining room chandelier. Two bullets entered the kitchen — ricocheting off a wall, tearing through custom drapes and boring through a back wall. A fourth bullet passed through the kitchen, a back

wall and the house's aluminum siding.

"Had we been sitting in the dining room, standing at the refrigerator or using the kitchen phone — all common places to be at 4:30 in the afternoon — we probably would have taken several bullets," Harrison said.

Please turn to Page 9



4 injured in crash

Three city employees — a quarter of Farmington's 12-member Department of Public Works staff — sustained multiple injuries shortly past 9 a.m. Friday when they were struck by an out-of-control car, according to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report. Officers believe the driver had a seizure. Injured were city employees F. Norman Goers, 57, of New Hudson, Gary Novakowski, 31, of Redford Township, and Steve Klein, 23, of Livonia. Goers and Novakowski were admitted to Providence Hospital, Southfield. Klein was admitted to Bot-

ford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, and later transferred to St. Mary's Hospital, Livonia. Community EMS paramedics (above) tend to the injured. The car came to rest in front of Bootlegger's. Witnesses told officers the driver of the car, a 24-year-old Detroit man, was westbound on Grand River when he suddenly drove from the curb lane into the left lane, then off the road, striking the three victims, who were working at the southwest corner of Brookdale and Grand River. The employees were following up on a water main break.

what's inside

- Around Farmington . . . 8B
- Campus pipeline . . . 10A
- Classifieds, Sections C-D
- Crossword puzzle . . . 8B
- Entertainment . . . 7A
- On the agenda . . . 10A
- Police/fire calls . . . 8A
- Shopping cart . . . 7-8B
- Short takes . . . 3A
- Sports . . . 1-3B
- Suburban life . . . 5-8B

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